

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04121 181149Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 DLOS-09 PA-01
CG-00 DOTE-00 JUSE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 INSE-00
DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 /048 W
-----056310 181157Z /23
O 181142Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4254
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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COPENHAGEN FOR REGFISHATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, US, SP
SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF SPANISH F/V COSTA DE NORUEGA FOR FISH-
ERIES VIOLATION

REF: STATE 92190; STATE 92207

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED APRIL 18 BY LORENZO GONZALEZ ALONSO,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES
RELATIONS, WITH REGARD TO SEIZURE OF F/V COSTA DE
NORUEGA. ACCORDING TO GONZALEZ ALONSO REPRESENTATIVES
OF SPANISH FISHING INDUSTRY FROM GALICIA HAVE COME TO
MADRID WITH INTENTION OF PRESSING SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO
INTERVENE POLITICALLY IN COSTA DE NORUEGA CASE.

2. SPANISH FISHERMEN ARE CLAIMING THAT U.S. COAST GUARD
TOOK COMMAND OF VESSEL FROM CAPTAIN AND PLACED IT UNDER
U.S. FLAG, WHICH THEY ALLEGED IS IN VIOLATION OF INTER-
NATIONAL LAW. THEY ALSO ARE PROTESTING REPORTED FINE
OF \$100,000, WHICH THEY VIEW AS EXCESSIVE.

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3. GONZALEZ ALONSO REPORTED THAT FISHERMEN HAVE ASKED
FOR MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OREJA AND
OTHER OFFICIALS. THEY ALSO ARE PLANNING TO CONTACT
SPANISH TELEVISION AND OTHER MEDIA IN EFFORT MOUNT
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THEIR CASE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FULL INFORMATION

ON COSTA DE NORUEGA CASE, INCLUDING EXACT CHARGES FILED
AGAINST VESSEL AND AMOUNT OF FINE IF DETERMINED ALREADY.
WE WOULD ALSO FIND USEFUL DETAILS OF SEIZURE, INCLUDING
RELEVANT GUIDANCE TO COUNTER POSSIBLE SPANISH CHARGE OF
VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BY US COAST GUARD. IN
ORDER PLACE SPANISH CASE IN PERSPECTIVE EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE SUMMARY OF ALL SEIZURES OF FISHING VESSELS
DURING PAST YEAR AND FINES IMPOSED IN THOSE CASES,
PARTICULARLY CONFIRMATION OF \$250,000 FINE AGAINST
SOVIET FISHING VESSEL TARAS SCHEVCHENKO. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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